(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Applicability of ID Act, 1947 to SBC, Visakhapatnam

1716. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ship Building Centre (SBC), Visakhapatnam has been exempted from applicability of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the present system of dispute settlement?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Information can not be divulged in the interest of National Security.

Withdrawal of army from J&K

†1717. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Army is being withdrawn from some places of Baramula and Kupwara sectors of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Army officers are opposing the move of pulling out the Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) An Expert Panel has been constituted by the Government to determine whether there is a need to relocate and reconfigure the existing security forces, keeping in mind the security needs of the State. The report of the Committee is likely to be submitted shortly.

BRO proposal for road and helipad in Uttarakhand

1718. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Border Roads Organization has submitted a proposal to the Uttarakhand Government for acquisition of about 181.3 hectares of land for building 75.5 kilometer road and helipads for the Mansarovar Yatra between Ghatiabagarh and Lipulekh Pass;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the road will be built in two phases and is likely to be completed in 2011; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the road so constructed is going to reduce time taken for the Mansarover Yatra?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Border Roads Organizations (BRO) has submitted a proposal for acquisition of 183.3 Hectares of land to Uttarakhand Government for proposed work.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Increase in cases of suicide and premature retirement in army

1719. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the suicide toll/pre-mature retirement in the Indian Army is increasing day-by-day, as since 2002, more than 450 soldiers have killed themselves and 811 officers sought premature retirement during 2006;

(b) if so, what is the number thereof till the middle of 2007 as per Army records; and

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard to solve an array of problems: suicides, fragging, deteriorating mental health, etc. being faced by the world's third largest army and the most battle-hardened forces of the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The details of suicide and premature retirement cases in the Army for the last five years are as follows:

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (till 15.8.2007)
Suicide cases	80	100	100	77	120	70
Premature Retirement Cases	65	329	278	336	435	371

The Government has taken a series of measures to check incidents of suicide, fratricide, etc. in the Army. Some of these steps are:–

(i) Better man management and prompt attendance of grievances at Unit level.

(ii) Improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction of junior leaders with the soldiers.

(iii) Some Junior Commissioned Officers of Army Medical Corps (AMC) have been trained and deployed as psychological counsellors in Northern and Eastern Commands.

(iv) Training of more JCOs and NCOs for acting as counsellors in units.